4/9/70

Dear Harold,

To my surprise, your letter to me of 4/3/70 did not arrive until today and it bore no postmark--just two black crayon lines over the stamp. The envelop was all scuffed with no visible signs of previous opening. I suppose this all means nothing.

There are a few things I have to write and they will come in no special order.

Your letter to Dick and I of 3/31 is good. Will discuss Lifton in a second...You feel the same way as me on Dick's comments on Fil. Both of you seem to have missed a reference which I recently found. Perry also told Specter he considered this a medium velocity. So Specter has it from at least two sources. It was Humes in the autopsy report who uses high velocity and this could have tied S down...I've seen some ammo catalogues plus other ballistics books...Some of the pieces will be lost forever because we no longer have JFK's body and that was never examined by the right people. We are stuck with whatever the docs found, and even if we get everything from them, there is only so much they can know...Also, make the correction Dick suspected. Fil said "Kinetic ballistics" not "Kennedy ballistics" as I erroniously transcribed.

Good luck again on the suit. I've not yet received a copy, and when I do I will gain contact the papers here.

LIFTON: He has answered me with a long letter plus a copy of his "Case for 3 Assass" as printed in UCLA paper. The main thing he wanted was details of my Specter int since he is writing a book and wants to know all he can about attitudes of staff members. However, he told me some of the things he has and he does have a lot, some of which I think either could be important or at least desirable to me. He has $300 worth of documents from the Archives on microfilm. The latest, he says, is the unpublished pages of the Gemeberling reports which includes subject headings such as "LHO rifle practice, Walker shooting, Oswald with rifle pictures, etc." I do not know if any of this is important.

However, he tells me he has tons of photographs. He has "excellent" B&W copy of Nix, "excellent" color ones of Hughes and Bell, "Many good" frames from Weigman, Couch, Underwood. He has "high quality" complete set of slides from Hughes and Bell but can circulate neither "at the time". Also, he is getting "another film" soon. These are the things I want from him the most.

He says he has personal interviews with people "who you wouldn't think that are accessible, including certain SS agents, people who worked in the white house on kennedy's staff. This is a touchy area." I wonder who he spoke with.

My response was this: I told him no on Specter, and referred him to WWII for the good discussion there. I told him that I did not know if I could make any of my stuff available, but would give advice on the photographs, which seem to be his bag. I will <u>not</u> ever bring up medical evidence with him. I have too much in confidence and will not ~~MXX~~ run the risk of inadvertantly spilling anything. All I will discuss with him is the photos, which is old stuff basically and not all to important if important at all to my work now. Also, he asked for a tape of the Specter-Tink debate, saying that he could make a dupe and return the tape in 10 days. Here I may be able to bargain with him, loan the tape say for access to some of

his films. If he does make a dupe, should I request a copy for myself which I could give to you?

His letter is friendly, and he bends over backwards to assure that he will keep anything I give him in confidence, never to be used without my permission. Such words, I presume, have no legal basis and are therefore meaningless to those without morals or human dignity. I do not intend to heed them. Again, I assure you there is nothing to fear with Lifton. When he does get "hot" I will discontinue the correspondance. Right now, I think there is the hope I may get something from him. Please do not be exasperated if you disapprove.

Nichols just wrote me. He will be in Phila in a week and wants to meet with me. I would like to tape a conversation with him for use in my book since he is a forensic path. I would ask him things similar to what I asked Fil, plus his opinions based on his knowledge of the case.

YOUR 4/3 to me:

Thanks for the reminder that Archives should have original of FBI ex. 60. I will insist on it.

You ask "WHy should Humes want to lie in a way Specter didn't want him to?" You partially answer, "That he would lie as desired is more reasonable." I have never considered that S wanted Humes to lie, or even if he was influencial in making Humes lie. As you do seem to realize, Humes did lie on the chest incisions, and right now that is all I consider important to that issue.

As for fragmentation, see my enclosed letter (have not been able to mail for some days.) — in separate envelope

Cancellare got a picture of the south knoll right after the shots, before the cops left their cycles. I've seen only one half decent copy in a book, but not clear enough to show possible men there, and also incomplete. Also, that area is slightly out of focus. I can get a copy from UPI for $5, but will first try other means. Also, if someone hid in a pergola as I suggested, only the barrel of his gun need be visible, and by the time of Can., be gone. The pergolas on S knoll have windows like those on north.

A few days back, I was watching a show which filmed the tour of a rock group. In Dallas, they drove through DP, driving east on commerce and showing movies taken from their car. These showed very well how compact the plaza is, plus how the distance to JFK from S knoll would not have been that great.

Thanks for the offer to borrow COUP. Perhaps later, with good chance over the summer. I would like to visit over the summer, so perhaps I could get into it then.

By the way, Black Star is selling me Gene Daniels' pictures in LHO's roominghouse. Daniels confirmed the story to me, saying that they did not want him to take pictures until they put the curtain rods up. He adds that "the truth has not been told."

Still,

Howard

cc. Dick